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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,760	09/19/2003	Kurt David Krueger	13033.11US01	6987
7590	07/02/2004		EXAMINER	
Merchant & Gould P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903				LACYK, JOHN P
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3736		

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/665,760	KRUEGER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	John P Lacyk	3736

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/24/2004, 2/02/20

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____. 

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 13-19, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grimm et al.

Grimm et al discloses a container (50) having a plurality of cartridges (20) having an implant (22) disposed within the bore of a needle (20) and the cartridge is adapted to be connected to a handle (72) to eject the implant upon actuation of an actuator (78, 80). Grimm et al also shows an “obturator” (30) that is disposed in the bore of the needle and moves by the actuator to push the implant out of the bore. With respect to claims 13 and 26 it is well known in the art that anything placed within the body would inherently have to be sterile.

3. Claims 1-6, 13-19, 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elliott.

Elliott teaches a cartridge (10) having an implant (16) within its bore and a piston (12) disposed within the bore to eject the implant from the bore when an actuator or plunger from the insertion tool or handle is used (see abstract, column 4, lines 29-38 and column 5 lines 50-62). The cartridge is coupled to an insertion tool to eject the implant. Elliott repeatedly discusses keeping the device sterile and discusses the use of a plurality of cartridges (column 9, lines 5-25). Elliott also discloses the use of striations (32) that are grooves formed along the body of the cartridge that would inherently act as gripping elements since the parts between the grooves would be raised with respect to the grooves.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 7-12 and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grimm et al or Elliott in view of Conrad et al '580. Grimm et al and Elliott disclose the claimed device except for the particulars of the implant. Conrad et al discloses an implant that is implanted within tissue that is placed within a bore of a needle and is ejected from the needle (60) by a plunger (64). While it is considered obvious to substitute any known implant or injectable element for the implants taught by Grimm et al and Elliott a substitution of the implant of Grimm et al or Elliott to include the implant taught by Conrad et

al would have been obvious since this would have been the mere substitution of one implant ejected from the bore of a needle for another.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ravins et al, Yeung et al, Smith and Hawkins et al are cited to further show the state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P Lacyk whose telephone number is 703-308-2995.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on 308-3130. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John P Lacyk
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3736

J.P. Lacyk